(d) whether Government propose to establish a cement-concrete sleeper manufacturing factory at Sonopur in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir, it has been decided that the cement-concrete sheepers will be introduced progessively on all major Railway Trunk Routes in replacement of all types of sleepers (Steel, Cast iron, Wooden).

(b) It is proposed to lay about 600 Kms. of track on concrete sleepers during the current financial year 1984-85.

(c) At present, 23 units are manufacturing concrete sleepers in the country while 8 units are under development. The number of units to be set up in future will depend upon the future requirements.

(d) No, Sir

New Platforms at Delhi Railway Station

1039. SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have spent lakhs of rupees in consturcting the new passenger platform No. 20 at Delhi Junction;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Northern Railways are not in a position to handle more passenger trains at Delhi Junction due to shortage of platforms;

(c) whether Government propose to construct a few more platforms at Delhi Junction, and

(d) whether Government have received suggestions from Members of Parliament to the effect that the new platform No. 20 should not be converted to goods/parcel platform, if so, what action has been taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) The existing goods platform was repaired and converted into passenger platform No. 20 in connection with construction of Shahdara-Saharanpur B. G. rail line.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Work has been approved for extention of number of existing platforms to handle more number of long passenger trains. The possibility of providing an additional island platform is also being examined.

(d) Suggestion has been received to convert the platform No. 20 into a parcel platform only after additional platforms have been constructed. This suggestion will be considered alongwith detailed planning and execution of the work.

New platforms at Delhi Junction

1040. SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 925 answered on 4th May, 1984 and to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work on the construction of open second entry and new platforms towards Kashmiri Gate side at Delhi Junction to avoid congestion has not yet been started/completed, if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of bogies of Howrah bound trains outside the platform Nos. 11-12 and 3-5 at Delhi Junction, if so, what are the reasons that the work of increasing the length of the platform No. 11 and 13 and 3-5 and new platform No. 20 has not yet started/completed?